



# The *Blurb*



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

**62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011**

Volume 62 Number 2

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

February 2012

Groundhog Day

Superbowl Sunday

Valentines' Day

President's Day

And Leap Day

**It must be February!**

*And Spring begins 5:14Z on March 20 ... but who's counting?*

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*Don't forget to send in your club dues if you haven't done so and update any changes to your directory listing!*

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**The Blurb** is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. **Copying and quoting** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. **Subscriptions** are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.

**Editor:** Rick DeVirgiliis **ND3B**  
nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225

**Labels and mailing:** **KB3IV**

**Submissions deadline:** All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

#### Directors:

**WU3I (12)**  
**W3MHP(12)**  
**KB3SJS(12)**  
**WA3KIO(13)**  
**N3QV(13)**  
**ND3B(13)**  
**KB3IV(A)**

#### Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88

**Abington, PA 19001**

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

Website: Eric N3QV &

Andrew KC2PMW

**For club information:** Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV

#### Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net** ..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

#### Committees

Audit: NS3K  
Blurb folding: KB3IV  
& N3GLU  
Directory: KB3IV

DX: N3MT  
Emerg.Coor: K3HWE  
Field Day: KE3QB  
Internet: N3QV &  
KC2PMW  
Membership: N3XKE

Net Control: KB3IV  
Publicity: W3RM  
Program: Club VP  
Public Service: KE3QB  
Refreshments: W3AOK  
Repeater: W3AOK

Scholarship: W3RM  
Skywarn: WX3PHI  
Sunshine: N3GLU  
VE Program: NS3K  
Welcome: N3UBY  
Youth: KC2PMW

#### *All visitors are welcome!*

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second** non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128  
Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org).

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmcclloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmcclloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**  
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**  
**147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz**  
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R  
**W3AA Trustee: WU3I**  
**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV**

#### *The Officers*

**Pres:** **KB2ERL Bob Nicotera** [bnic1903@msn.com](mailto:bnic1903@msn.com)

**Vice Pres:** **W3STW Al Tribble** [wstw@juno.com](mailto:wstw@juno.com)

**Sec:** **KB3MIV Jen Miller** [jencaz@verizon.net](mailto:jencaz@verizon.net)

**Treas:** **W3RM Richard A. Moll** [roger.mike@verizon.net](mailto:roger.mike@verizon.net)

**Asst. Treas:** **N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli** [michaelmt\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com)

***The Prez Sez ...***

Although it's already February I want to welcome everyone to the New Year and this my very first Prez Sez. As I take the reins with an experienced and confident board the year promises to be fun and exciting. We already had a great Auctionfest in January and February's meeting revisiting echolink operation and procedures promises to be fun and informative. One thing I would like to introduce is for the members to bring some ideas on what they would like us to do or get involved with. Remember, this is your club and we want it to remain one of the premier amateur clubs in our area. So make it a point to be at the meeting on the 8th and bring those ideas with you.

**73s Bob KB2ERL**

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*Congratulations to our new president.  
Ed can finally take a day off!*

***Phil-Mont  
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

***February Birthdays***

01 Charlotte Feierman (XYL K3EUI)  
03 Barry Feierman - K3EUI

05 Mike Concordia - WB3KAC  
10 Sharon Masarsky - N3GLU

12 Paul Eberwine – KB3SYX  
17 Sam Smith - K3GBA

23 Gene DiNardi - N3XKE  
Steve Victor – WA2DTW  
24 Carmen DeCicco - KE3QB  
Larry Pollack - N3VLC

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***Membership Stats***

At press time PMRC had:  
83 Full Paid Members  
8 Family Members  
4 Youth Members  
1 Honorary Member



*This month's Thursday evening VE session  
is on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

*As always, many thanks to our VE team!*

***From the Secretary*****Board of Directors meeting, 1/4/12**

President Bob, KB2ERL opened the meeting at 2010 hrs with Gene N3XKE, Fred WA3KIO, Steve WU3I, Ed KB3IV, Al W3STW, John KB3STS, Dick W3RM, Rick ND3B, Eric N3QV and Bill W3AOK attending.

Bill reports the repeater is working well but the building needs painting. He suggested we consider siding instead.

Ed reports the website is up-to-date thanks to Andrew, KC2PMW. The board thanks him as well as Eric, N3QV for their efforts. Ed is also looking for more net control operators to add to the schedule.

Auctionfest is next week and Ed Steve and Bill discussed preparations. Bill will once again provide door prizes.

The idea of emailing the Blurb was discussed and rejected as so many members prefer receiving the monthly hard copy.

Vice President Al reports the Tuesday digital net is doing well and encourages all to join in. He also provided a list of monthly program topics for the upcoming year, and member's suggestions are welcome as well.

Treasurer Dick reports the club finances are sound and that Ed will soon be mailing dues invoices. This is also each member's opportunity to make changes to their current directory information which will be printed on the invoice.

The topic of club apparel was raised and it was decided to ask members what they would like. Shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, hats and patches were mentioned. Gene will investigate the costs and logistics of various options.

President Bob adjourned the meeting at 2100 hrs.

**General meeting and Auctionfest, 1/11/12**

President Bob, KB2 ERL opened the meeting at 1920 hrs and introduced Bob Famiglio, K3RF, who described his background and asked the members for their support in his run for ARRL EPA Section Manager. After his comments Mark, WA3QVU, from Warminster ARC, handed out flyers for their hamfest coming up in May and mentioned an upcoming trip to ARRL headquarters, in Newington CT.

The Auction commenced after Steve explained the rules, with Ed, KB3IV acting as auctioneer and Steve, WU3I, and Bob, KB2ERL, keeping records and handling payments.

*de Rick, ND3B  
acting secretary*

**Frostfest 2012 - Richmond Virginia - 2/4/12**

Frostfest is less than TWO WEEKS AWAY! We have sold a record number of tickets to the Saturday, February 4th event!

Buying your ticket online at [www.frostfest.com](http://www.frostfest.com) saves you \$1 off the at-the-door price, and gets you in at 8:00AM, a half hour before on-site ticket sales begin.

***Address:***

Richmond Raceway Complex  
600 East Laburnum Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23222-2253

***GPS Coordinates:***

37 deg 35 min 31 sec N - 77 deg 25 min 23 sec W  
...aka... 37.586389 x -77.423333

***APRS:***

If your vehicle is APRS-capable, you can home-in on our APRS object, **FROSTFEST**.

## PITCAIRN ISLAND AND RADIO

### HMS *Bounty* descendants get radio

Bob Thomas, W3NE



*Mutiny on the Bounty* is a well-known classic adventure of the high seas, as told in several novels and motion pictures. HMS *Bounty* was sent by the Royal Navy on an experimental expedition to explore the viability of transplanting breadfruit trees from Tahiti, where they were abundant, to the West Indies, where the nutritious fruit of mature trees would be used to feed British slaves. The *Bounty*, a 90-foot three-mast ship sailed from England on December 23, 1787 with a crew of 46 officers and men under Captain William Bligh. Bligh was a superb seaman, navigator and cartographer, but he was a brutal authoritarian, unable to direct his crew without threats and harsh punishment. After a month of aborted attempts to pass around Cape Horn in foul weather, Bligh reversed direction and sailed eastward around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa, across the Indian Ocean and finally to Tahiti on a voyage of ten months. During the rigors of the voyage Bligh became unable to get along with his First Officer and replaced him with Fletcher Christian.

The layover in Tahiti for collection and preparation of breadfruit saplings lasted longer than anticipated. During that five month period Bligh allowed the crew to live ashore where they rapidly “assimilated” with Tahitians, taking wives and adopting many of their customs. The worst of Bligh’s personality began to surface as he continually humiliated Mr. Christian in front of his men and Tahitians, and

meted out harsh punishment on the crew for minor infractions. The *Bounty* finally set sail from Tahiti on April 5, 1789 with the original crew minus three men who deserted to continue living on the island.

Out at sea, Bligh’s brutality intensified with frequent floggings and blame heaped on Christian for every problem. After three weeks of unrelenting harsh treatment, Fletcher Christian led sixteen men in an unopposed mutiny. Bligh and eighteen of his supporters were loaded on the *Bounty*’s 23-foot open launch and set adrift.<sup>[1]</sup> The *Bounty* returned to Tahiti with the mutineers, where Christian married a Tahitian and eventually departed with eight crewmen, six Tahitian men, and eleven women. After searching for an island where they would be hidden from passing ships, especially the Royal Navy, they came upon Pitcairn Island, only two miles long and one mile wide, with rocky cliffs rising 1000 feet up from the sea. A further advantage offered by Pitcairn was that its position was shown on all existing charts with an error of 200 miles! There were coconut and fruit trees on the island and fish were plentiful. The new inhabitants burned the *Bounty* and began a peaceful life with Fletcher Christian as leader, but before long there was such extreme social strife it nearly brought the population to extinction. Divisive issues were eventually resolved and the community flourished. John Adams was the only British survivor in 1808 when the island was first visited by a British ship; he was given amnesty for his part in the mutiny. Today most of the residents of Pitcairn (about fifty) are direct descendants of the original settlers. The island is now a British Overseas Territory and as might be expected, even has its own internet web page.<sup>[2]</sup>

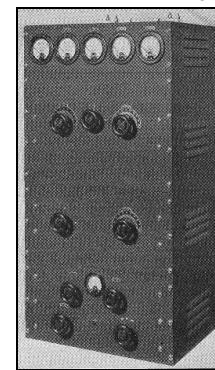
W8IGQ visited Pitcairn and described how radio arrived there in his 1937 QST article<sup>[3]</sup> “CQ PITC.” It began in 1921 when some of the islanders started to study Morse code after they had been promised a receiver by the Marconi Company. Practice initially was with flash lights, but they were later able to hook-up a key and buzzer so they were ready when Marconi delivered two crystal sets. That enabled islanders to copy marine traffic and get advanced notice when a ship, usually from New Zealand, would be arriving at Pitcairn. A low power spark

transmitter on 600 meters (about 500 kc.) was installed in 1928 by a New Zealand ham to enable

direct contact with ships at sea, using the commercial call PITC. Incredibly, that transmitter was still in operation when W8IGQ visited in 1937 even though spark had been legally banned in 1923! The rig used a simple spark coil that produced a tone described by one shipboard operator as "sounding like a monkey pi - - ing on a drum." The transmitter was powered by a 12-volt storage battery, but with no primary power on the island, the battery had to be shipped to New Zealand every time it needed recharging! Even then, dedicated PITC ops continued to keep a watch on 500 kc. while their transmitter was down. Harking back to the *Bounty*'s heritage, the Chief Operator of PITC was Andrew Young, a fifth generation descendant of an original settler. Although Young was not a ham, he embodied the spirit of amateur radio in the way he forged ahead with limited technical knowledge and few material resources to establish communications with the outside world.

Following publication of the article by W8IGQ, several U.S. amateurs and manufacturers responded by donating and assembling a complete modern medium-power station. As described by W1BES in his 1938 *QST* article<sup>[4]</sup> the equipment consisted of an amateur-built transmitter, commercial receiver, and a power generating system suitable for conditions on Pitcairn Island. Author W1BES was Chief Engineer of the Coto-Coil Company, a major manufacturer of receiver and transmitter coils at that time, who seemed to be the coordinator, if not the driving force behind the project. The 60/80-watt Phone/CW transmitter was built in a rack-and-panel 36" cabinet with separate units for speech amp/modulator, exciter, and power amplifier. Six panel meters monitored operating conditions. It was supplied with crystals for 7245, 14,346 and 478 kc. so it could immediately be used for maritime communications and later for amateur QSOs when a few islanders became interested in ham radio as anticipated. Output coupling accommodated half wave dipoles for the ham bands and a Marconi (combination horizontal and vertical) for 600 meters. The receiver was a Sargent TRF, covering 100kc. to 30 mc. donated by the manufacturer.

February 2012



As previously noted, there was no source of primary power on Pitcairn Island so a wind-driven generator with 7-foot prop on a 12-foot tower was included to supply d-c for charging two 6-volt/300 A.H. storage batteries. The batteries powered filaments directly and dynamotors supplied plate voltages. A wind velocity of 20 mph provided sufficient energy for ten hours operation. The transmitter was tested on the air, packed with everything needed for a complete station, and delivered to Pitcairn Island by a shipping company at no charge. It all arrived in March 1938 and Andrew Young got his ham ticket, VR6AY, shortly afterward, but evidence of his amateur operation is obscure, possibly buried in a "How's DX" column of *QST*. The transmitter apparently later developed trouble beyond Young's capability to fix, so it was shipped to NY2AE in Panama for repair. As reported in *QST*<sup>[5]</sup> the repaired Tx was picked up by the sailing ship *Yankee*, on its round-the-world tour, and returned to Pitcairn, however, by then war had begun in Europe and Andrew Young was forbidden to go on the air at all.

Was all the effort to establish an amateur and commercial station on Pitcairn worthwhile? Probably. The receiver and generating system would have enabled islanders to keep abreast of war news, and Andrew Young would almost certainly have used the transmitter if there had been a serious emergency. VR6AY and PITC were revived after the war and short wave broadcasting also began using a new diesel generator for power. Now, like everyone else, the islanders depend on satellites for most communications.

If any Phil-Mont DXers happen to contact a VP6, please ask what is going on there pass it along to us.

<sup>[1]</sup> Captain Bligh demonstrated his competence by navigating the *Bounty*'s open launch, crowded with the other castoffs, across more than 3600 miles of open sea in 47 days to Timor in the Dutch East Indies.

<sup>[2]</sup> Pitcairn Island's modern webpage:

<http://www.onlinepitcairn.com>

<sup>[3]</sup> Eurich, Allen. "CQ PITC." *QST* 9-10. March, 1937

<sup>[4]</sup> Bellem, Lew. "The New PITC." *QST* 19-20. January, 1938

<sup>[5]</sup> "Operating News." *QST* 75, June 1940

***Check out this rope for your antenna project –***

***3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord***

***This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!***

***This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.***

***PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET  
SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS  
CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT  
WU3I@ARRL.NET***

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After all the rain we got last summer I dreaded the winter. Imagine if we got as much precipitation when the mercury dropped! -ed

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### ***Have you heard about D-Star?***

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

***de Jim, NS3K***

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**February at PMRC ...**  
*There is no Board meeting this month*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs Groundhog Day  
5<sup>th</sup> Sun K3XS NCS  
Super Bowl Sunday  
8<sup>th</sup> Wed General Meeting  
14<sup>th</sup> Tues Valentine's Day  
12<sup>th</sup> Sun W3MHP NCS  
19<sup>th</sup> Sun KB3IV NCS  
20<sup>th</sup> Mon President's Day  
21<sup>st</sup> Tues Mardi Gras  
23<sup>rd</sup> Thurs VE Test Session  
26<sup>th</sup> Sun KB3SJS NCS  
29<sup>th</sup> Wed Leap Day*

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And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital Net** Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

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**First Class Mail**

1700 Street Rd Apt. H3, Warminster Pa, 18976  
The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc

*The Blurb*